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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/736,656	12/16/2003	Brent R. Jones	D/A3075Q	6302
25453	7590	11/15/2005	EXAMINER	
LIANG, LEONARD S				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		2853		

DATE MAILED: 11/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/736,656	JONES, BRENT R. 	
	Examiner Leonard S. Liang	Art Unit 2853	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 December 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5,7,12-14,16,17,19 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 6,8-11,15,18 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 16 December 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/16/03, 06/15/05
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION***Drawings***

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 9, 18, 23-25, 29A-D, 60A-D. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: 18A-D, 24A-D, 25A-D. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not

Art Unit: 2853

accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

In paragraph 0001, insert application numbers. In paragraph 0030, line 1, it should state "plurality of anchor." Paragraph 0035 is improperly highlighted.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-5, 7, 12-14, 16-17, 19, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Jones et al (US Pat 6530655).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the

Art Unit: 2853

inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Jones et al discloses:

- {claim 1} A solid ink melt assembly for use in a phase change printer (figure 3); a drip plate with first and second sides (figure 3, reference 60A-D); a lower portion of the plate is shaped to form a drip point (figure 4, reference 52); a heater mounted to the first side of the drip plate (figure 3, reference 29A-D); wherein the second side of the drip plate is exposed to ink sticks for melting (figure 3)

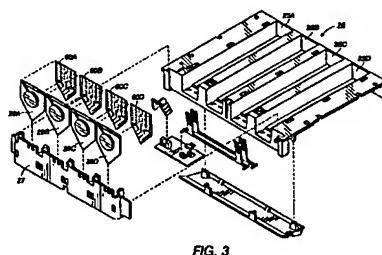


FIG. 3

- {claim 2} wherein the lower portion is not coplanar with an upper portion of the plate (figure 4, reference 52; column 6, lines 64-66)

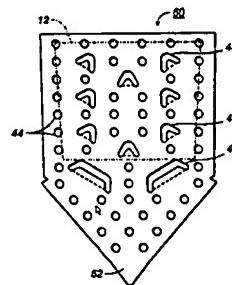


FIG. 4

- {claim 3} wherein the plate material is a nonferrous metal (column 7, lines 16-17)

- {claim 4} wherein the plate material is aluminum (column 7, lines 16-17)
- {claim 5} wherein the heater is a closed loop heater (figure 3, reference 29A-D)
- {claim 7} wherein at least one formed flange extends outward from the second side along at least one side edge (column 7, lines 10-15)
- {claim 12} wherein each assembly is mounted to an ink loader with an individual adapter (figure 3, reference 25A-D)
- {claim 13} a retaining clip to prevent large scale separation of heater elements from the drip plate (figure 3, reference 27)
- {claim 14} An ink loader for use in a phase change printer (figure 3); at least one channel having an entry end and an exit end (figure 3, reference 25A-D); a melt assembly (figure 3); a metallic drip plate with first and second sides, wherein the lower portion of the plate is shaped to form a drip point (figure 3, reference 60A-D); a heater mounted to the first side (figure 3, reference 29A-D)
- {claim 16} wherein the heating element is a closed loop heater (figure 3, reference 29A-D)
- {claim 17} wherein the drip point is not coplanar with the first and second sides (figure 4, reference 52; column 6, lines 65-67)
- {claim 19} wherein at least one of the drip plates and the melt plate is made from a non ferrous metal
- {claim 21} A phase change ink printer (figure 3); an ink loader for use in a phase change ink printer comprising at least one channel having an entry end and an exit end (figure 3, reference 25A-D); a melt assembly, which includes a metallic

drip plate with first and second sides, wherein the lower portion of the plate is shaped to form a drip plate (figure 3, reference 60A-D); a heater mounted to the first side (figure 3, reference 29A-D)

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6, 8-11, 15, 18, and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 6 discloses, "wherein a flange is formed extending outward from a top edge of an upper portion of the drip plate," which was not found, taught, or disclosed in the prior arts.

Claim 8 discloses, "wherein a melt plate first side is affixed to the drip plate second side," which was not found, taught, or disclosed in the prior arts (Based on Jones et al, the melt plate is affixed to the drip plate first side, not second side).

Claims 9-11 depend from objected claim 8.

Claim 15 discloses, "wherein the first side of the melt plate is affixed to the second side of the drip plate," which was not found, taught, or disclosed in the prior arts.

Claim 18 discloses, "wherein the metal plate has formed flanges at the sides and top extending from the melt plate second side," which was not found, taught, or disclosed in the prior arts.

Claim 20 discloses, "wherein the melt plate has void area providing a substantial reduction in mass," which was not found, taught, or disclosed in the prior arts.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Crawford (US Pat 5784089) discloses a melt plate design for a solid ink printer.

Jones et al (US PgPub 20020180852) discloses a drip plate design for a solid ink printer.

Thornton et al (US Pat 6089686) discloses a method for supplying ink to an ink jet printer.

Ikezaki (US Pat 6193365) discloses a hot melt type inkjet head and sheet shaped heating device used for hot melt type inkjet head.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leonard S. Liang whose telephone number is (571) 272-2148. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5 Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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MSGU 11/9/05
MANISH S. SHAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER